GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:298
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
PALESTINE ISSUE
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the office of the Palestine leader, Yassar Arafat, was put under siege by the Israeli troops during September, 2002;

(b) if so, whether India issued any statement condemning the Israeli action; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The following statement was issued by the Government of India on23rd September, 2002 titled `India Expresses Concern At Developments In West Asia` :

`India has noted with dismay that after six weeks of relative lull in violence the security situation has deteriorated sharply with two suicide bomb attacks, and incursions by Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) against President Yasser Arafat`s compound in Ramallah.

`We hope that all concerned parties would act decisively and in good faith to contain this renewed spiral of violence, which comes at a time when there are new initiatives by the international community, particularly the `Quartet`, to re-start the negotiations towards peace and the establishment of an independent Palestine state.`